

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 53

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, upon the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals; and

WHEREAS, those contributions have helped to preserve the tangible aspects of our heritage and shape us as a people; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 1913, twenty-two courageous and exemplary African-American collegiate women gathered at Howard University in Washington, D.C., with the goal of promoting academic excellence, public service, and social activism; and

WHEREAS, those twenty-two young women, Winona Cargile Alexander, Madree Penn White, Wertie Blackwell Weaver, Vashti Turley Murphy, Ethel Cuff Black, Frederica Chase Dodd, Osceola Macarthy Adams, Pauline Oberdorfer Minor, Edna Brown Coleman, Edith Mott Young, Marguerite Young Alexander, Naomi Sewell Richardson, Eliza P. Shippen, Zephyr Chisom Carter, Myra Davis Hemmings, Mamie Reddy Rose, Bertha Pitts Campbell, Florence Letcher Toms, Olive Jones, Jessie McGuire Dent, Jimmie Bugg Middleton, and Ethel Carr Watson, came together to establish the Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and

WHEREAS, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, later incorporated in 1930, continues to be a testament of its founders' vision through strength, commitment, and dedication to sisterhood, public service, and scholarship; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2013, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, observed its 100th Founders' Day Anniversary in our nation's capitol; and

WHEREAS, Delta members from around the world gathered together to commemorate the sorority's founding and celebrate a "Century of Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service"; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated, was chartered in 1935, following the principals established by the sorority's founders of educational excellence and public service; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter has a history of active participation in movements of social change both on the local and national levels, participating in strategic planning sessions, marches, and demonstrations promoting the areas of civil and human rights; and

WHEREAS, its contributions to Memphis and its surrounding communities have included the Maggie L. McDowell Scholarship Fund, its Arts, Letters, Education and Cultural Programs, its Mental Health Programs, its sponsorship of the renowned Ebony Fashion Fair bringing in thousands of dollars for scholarships and philanthropic programs, and its many, many social and civic activities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charlotte M. Freeman, as the President of the Memphis Alumnae Chapter, follows a long line of accomplished presidents, including our own Representative Johnnie M. Turner; and

WHEREAS, within the Tennessee General Assembly, Senator Thelma Harper, Representative Lois DeBerry, and Representative Brenda Gilmore are also proud to be members of this great sorority; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Alumnae Chapter is one of over 900 chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, representing more than 200,000 predominantly African-American college-educated women from the United States and around the world, all celebrating national and local Centennial activities; and

WHEREAS, it is proper that we pause in our deliberations to honor and congratulate this venerable sisterhood for its impressive history of academic excellence, public service, and social activism; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated,

upon the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and extend our boundless gratitude to its members and those of the Memphis Alumnae Chapter for their dedication and commitment to educational excellence and public service, and for their historic contribution to their communities and to this nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.